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PRESS RELEASE

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Two Men Sentenced to Prison Terms In Shooting That Followed Argument at Party - One Gunman is Cousin of Victim -

WASHINGTON - Two men were sentenced today to prison terms of 20 years and 18 years, respectively, on charges of assault with intent to kill while armed and other felony offenses that stemmed from a shooting that caused life-threatening injuries to one of the defendant's cousins, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Perrin Archie, 46, of Temple Hills, Md., and Samuel Short, 39, of Washington, D.C., were convicted by a jury in April 2011 following a trial in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The jury found both men guilty of charges of assault with intent to kill while armed, aggravated assault while armed, assault with a dangerous weapon and related firearms offenses.

The Honorable Lynn Leibovitz, who presided at the trial, sentenced Archie today to 20 years of incarceration and Short to an 18-year prison term.

The convictions stemmed from the armed assault of Short's cousin, Melvin Slater, Jr., then 27, following a dispute on the night of April 3, 2010. Short was hosting a cookout and party at which Archie, Short's longtime friend, was a guest. The party was being held at the home of Short's and Slater's grandmother, in the 1000 block of Ninth Street NE. Slater came to the party late in the evening, said hello to his cousin, Short, and began to help himself to food and drink.

Short confronted Slater and demanded that his cousin contribute money to pay for the food and beer that he had consumed. Slater refused. The argument escalated into a fistfight, during which Slater landed several punches on Short's face and head, causing lacerations to Short. Archie was the only friend who came to Short's aid by helping to pull Slater off of Short. After Slater left, Short angrily terminated the party, telling everyone to go home. Short was overheard shouting that he would "teach him a lesson" and "I'm going to kill him." After all of the other guests left the party, Short and Archie were seen leaving the area in Archie's station wagon.

About 20 minutes after everyone left the party, Slater returned to the backyard of the Ninth Street home. He was searching for his lost car keys. As Slater left the yard through the back alley, he saw a man with a gun standing behind him, deep in the alley. An eyewitness heard gunshots and saw Short in the alley, shooting in Slater's direction. Slater fled to West Virginia Avenue. As he ran, while looking over his shoulder at the gunman, he was struck in the face with a bullet. The bullet shattered Slater's jaw and several teeth, and also caused Slater to fall to the ground.

One witness then saw Archie, armed with a handgun, join the chase on West Virginia Avenue. Shooting as he ran, Archie chased Slater into another alley, where Slater again fell to the ground. Archie then fired a round at close range into Slater's abdomen, causing life-threatening injuries.

Eyewitnesses to the shooting later saw Short and Archie return to the backyard of the Ninth Street home. The defendants were drinking beer and laughing when police and medical personnel arrived. Slater survived the shooting, but only after receiving emergency medical attention and after spending months in the hospital recovering from his injuries.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised those who worked on the case from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), including Detectives Robert Saunders, Steven Z. Greene, Chanel Howard, Jeffrey Clay and Antonio Duncan; Sgt. Paul Wingate; Officers John Allie, Darren Bemiller, Babar Dass, Nathaniel Davis, Martin Fosso, Walter Hawkins, Ramonz Height, Anthony Lozado, Christopher Lucas, Jeffrey Maslona, Tony Nwani, J. Osumah, Adam Parkhomenko, William Washington and T. Watford; Fingerprint Examiner Roslyn Sensabaugh; Firearms Examiners Robert Freese and Jonathan Pope, and DNA Examiner Jennifer Zeffer.

U.S. Attorney Machen also commended the efforts of those who worked on the case from the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Victim Witness Advocates Jennifer Clark, David Foster and Debra Cannon; the entire Litigation Technical Support team and Paralegal Specialists Tameka Garcia, Theresa Nelson and Wanda Trice. Finally, he expressed appreciation to Assistant U.S. Attorneys Cormac Connor and Erin Walsh, who prosecuted the case at trial.